

The invention claimed is:

1. A hinge assembly for hinging a hood on a utility vehicle body so as to enable the hood to open upwardly and backwardly from the front end of the utility vehicle, the hinge assembly comprising a double-rocker, four-link
5 mechanism, including a bracket comprising one link, the bracket being mounted to an underside of the hood, near a back end of the hood.

2. The hinge assembly of claim 1, wherein the double-rocker, four-link mechanism includes a lower, fixed link having two opposite ends, each
10 defined by a bracket mounted to the utility vehicle body, an upper, coupler link defined by a portion of the hood-mounted bracket and having two opposite ends, and two rocker links, each rocker link having a lower end connected pivotally to one of the opposite ends of the fixed link and each rocker link having an upper
end connected pivotally to one of the opposite ends of the coupler link.

15

3. The hinge assembly of claim 2, wherein the rocker links are comprised of a comparatively longer, front link and a comparatively shorter, back link and wherein the coupler link is the shortest link.

20 4. The hinge assembly of claim 3, wherein the front, back, and coupler links are displaceable so that the upper end of the back link is movable toward and away from the lower end of the front link, between positions on

opposite sides of a center line drawn between the lower end of the back link and the other end of the coupler link.

5. The hinge assembly of claim 4, further comprising an extensible-
5 retractable spring connected between the rocker links so as to bias the upper end of the back link toward the lower end of the front link.

6. The hinge assembly of claim 5, wherein the spring has a front end
connected pivotally to the front link and a back end connected pivotally to the
10 back link and wherein, as measured along the front and back links respectively, the front end of the spring is comparatively closer to the lower end of the front link and the back end of the spring is comparatively farther from the lower end of the back link.

- 15 7. The hinge assembly of claim 1, wherein the bracket is secured adhesively to the underside of the hood.

8. The hinge assembly of claim 7, wherein the hood is made from a
polymeric material and wherein the bracket is made from steel.

20

9. In a utility vehicle, a combination of a vacuum-formed
polypropylene hood and a steel hinge bracket, which is secured adhesively to
the hood.

10. The combination of claim 9, further comprising a double-rocker, four-link hinge mechanism, the bracket forming one link.

106101" 2681400